



George R. "Smitty" Smith & Eva Thompson

Some may remember the heart wrenching unsolved homicides of George R. "Smitty" Smith and Eva Thompson. CAH featured their story (written by Granddaughter, JoAnn Holland) in our June 2003 newsletter and then updated in our October 2024 newsletter. I will recap a few excerpts in JoAnn's words:

"On Veteran's Day, November 11, 1991, our lives changed forever. On that quiet afternoon, my dear 80-year-old grandmother, Eva Thompson and my wonderful 67-year-old stepfather, George "Smitty" Smith were brutally murdered in their home. My mother, Ann, and Smitty owned a well-known lunch/dinner restaurant in Prunedale, CA near Salinas and Monterey. The restaurant building also functioned as home for all three family members. The restaurant was closed on Veteran's Day, so my mother went out to do some shopping. While my mother was out, a murderer cut the screen in the back door and entered their home/restaurant. Smitty was sitting at his desk... my grandmother confined to her hospital bed in her room. The murderer approached Smitty from behind and slashed his throat; then went to my grandmother's bedroom and slashed her throat as she fought for her life. The primary suspect knew the layout of the building and the motive was robbery.

UPDATE—AUGUST 27, 2025

Jury Convicts Former Employee, 86, of 1991 Double Murders at The Smith's Restaurant in Prunedale

Post Date: 08/27/2025 4:59 PM

Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that a jury convicted Ira Ulyesses Bastian, age 86, who lived most recently in

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*Our Next Meeting
will be on Saturday,
November 8th
9:30 a.m.*

*Meetings will be held on the
second Saturday every other
month at Contempo Marin
Community Center,
400 Yosemite Rd.,
San Rafael, CA 94901*

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CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

About Us

The majority of our CAH Board Members have lost a loved one to murder. We will never “get over” our tremendous losses, but we do “get through” the grief. Becoming proactive; assisting/supporting families throughout the most difficult time of their lives and guiding them through the complicated criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for families of homicide victims.

CAH Objectives

- Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system;
- Act as Liaison between families and investigative law enforcement;
- Provide assistance with Parole Opposition Letters;
- Accompany families to parole suitability hearings (when possible);
- Provide trial and courtroom support (when possible);
- Facilitate Reward Billboards (when/where possible);
- Provide information on pending crime legislation

Protecting Your Own Interests

We cannot prepare for the devastating event that changes our lives forever. We can only react. You will need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and (today) the unavoidable parole hearings. CAH will help you take action to protect your own interests.

If you know of a family or friend who may need our help, please share the information we have provided here.

Location for Meetings

We hold bi-monthly meetings on the second Sunday of the month at Loch Lomond Yacht Club - 95 Loch Lomond Drive, San Rafael, CA. The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend.

A Few Words From Jan

It was with tremendous heartache that I listened to the events surrounding the Annunciation Catholic Church shooting. My daughter, having been murdered, just as many of you also suffering the loss of murdered loved ones, news like this invariably strikes that sharp pain in your chest that lasts a lifetime. The pain does subside in time but can so easily be brought to the forefront of our hearts and minds.

When you think of those young people in the early chapters of their lives, in their holy place praying to God and sharing in His love—what an ironic place to be. My entire family shares their same religion. Thoughts of my grandchildren in exactly that same environment, brought chills along with the pain. Reflecting, I can remember when another school shooting prompted extreme security measures at my grandchildren’s school. Side doors and gates were closed with one entrance where only students and parents were allowed on the school grounds.

What also saddened me was the way some (including the press) talked about prayer. Criticizing prayer, saying “prayer does not end school shooting,” “prayers do not make parents feel safe,” “prayer does not bring kids back,” “enough with the thoughts and prayers”—how dare they tell us what they sadly know nothing about. Prayer is for the heart and soul of those left behind. Parents, whose children were spared, were not only praying words of gratitude and thanks—they were praying that God comfort those parents suffering the unimaginably painful loss of their children. If more parents brought their children to pray and teach their children the value of prayer then maybe together we could all make the world a better place.

Then, of course, make way for the “Gun Control” narrative—the next “answer” by those who criticize prayer! To actually come out with accusations such as “the fault lies with everyone who owns a gun” is the most ridiculous, unethical path

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Citizens Against Homicide

The UPS Store

369-B Third Street, Box 303

San Rafael, CA 94901

Tel 415-455-5944 • Fax 415-721-0788

E-Mail: vctmsmurdr@aol.com

Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

CAH Victim Advocate:

For advice regarding your individual murder case, 1-209-743-7033
cahadvocate@yahoo.com

George Smith & Eva Thompson

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Fresno, of two counts of first-degree murder for killing George Smith and Eva Thompson at The Smith's restaurant in Prunedale on November 11, 1991. The jury found true special-circumstance allegations that Bastian murdered Mr. Smith and Ms. Thompson during the commission of a burglary and that he committed multiple murders in the first degree. They further found true allegations that he personally used a knife to kill both victims.

George Smith, then age 67, and his wife Anna Smith owned and lived at The Smith's restaurant, which was located on El Camino Real North in Prunedale in 1991. Eva Thompson, then age 79, was Anna Smith's mother and also lived with the couple.

On November 11, 1991, Anna Smith returned home from running errands

and discovered that her husband and mother had been brutally murdered. George Smith had been stabbed 11 times with a kitchen knife. Eva Thompson, who was physically disabled and unable to walk, was found slain in her hospital-style bed. She was beaten, strangled, and her throat slit with the same knife used to kill her son-in-law. George Smith's bedroom was ransacked and cash stolen from it. The knife was recovered in a laundry hamper in the restaurant hallway.

Bastian, then age 52, was a former employee of The Smith's restaurant, but he claimed to have not been at the business for more than a year prior to the murders. A pair of shoes provided to investigators by his then-girlfriend was determined to have left shoe impressions in the backyard of the restaurant, near the door where the killer made entry. He was considered

a suspect in the initial investigation, though no charges were filed at that time. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office diligently pursued the case for decades and continued to submit and re-submit items of evidence in the case for newer and more sophisticated DNA testing.

In 2024 and 2025, additional DNA testing provided very strong support that Bastian was a contributor to DNA mixtures on the inside of the shoes provided to investigators by his girlfriend, the handle of the knife, and the nightshirt worn by Eva Thompson that was collected at her autopsy.

The Honorable Andrew G. Liu presided over the 10-day jury trial. Bastian is scheduled to be sentenced on September 24, 2025. He faces a prison sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Words From Jan

—cont. from page 2

used by social media to promote fear and violence. The gun did not go off by itself. There was a human, an evil human that held that gun and pulled the trigger. That evil human violated the gift that God gave him of free will and he chose to take the lives of innocent children who believed in and loved their God. Today's media sensationalize and make excuses for these individuals, completely sidelining the victims. These evil individuals need to be held accountable for their actions. Strong consequences, accountability,

no excuses and never mention their miserable names again.

All my life I have leaned on the power of prayer. Not to change life events, but to lean on this power greater than me. On many occasions, I have shared with you my belief that God has a large tapestry, that we are all beautiful strands in this tapestry and that one day, when we reach our place in heaven with God, this beautiful tapestry will divulge what our true path was. Now, after 41 years of my daughter's unsolved murder, I look back over those years and genuinely believe the path God chose for me was to help other families through the same pain of loss. Over these years I believe I,

(and all those working with CAH) have helped many hundreds of families. Each in a different and special way.

Today, my prayers continue for all the families of the Annunciation Catholic Church School, as their lives have been changed forever. I pray that God makes His presence known to those suffering such tremendous loss and to those suffering the horrific violence of that day. I pray they find solace with thoughts of God's beautiful Tapestry; the path He has created for each of us to make the world a better and more loving place to live.

—Til Later,
Jan

Corcoran Mom Pushes for Adult Charges for Violent Juvenile Offenders

CORCORAN, Calif. (FOX26)—It's been five months since 17-year-old Lorenzo Sanchez of Corcoran was killed outside the Hanford Mall.

The suspect in the fatal stabbing is just 15 years old.

Now, Lorenzo's family is channeling their grief into action, calling for changes to California's juvenile justice laws.

The Sanchez family is gathering signatures for a petition that seeks to let juveniles face adult charges for violent offenses.

They are advocating for changes to Proposition 57, the 2016 law that transferred the authority to decide if minors should be tried as adults from prosecutors to juvenile court judges.

Lorenzo's mother, Julia Sanchez, who says the pain of losing her son has only intensified.

"It's very hard. It's getting harder. Everywhere I go, I think of my son. It hasn't gotten any easier at all," she said.



Despite the heartbreak, Sanchez is determined to seek justice not just for her son, but to prevent future tragedies.

I feel like if we don't change this, they're going to keep doing it. How many more of our kids do we have to lose?

According to Hanford police, Lorenzo was fatally stabbed on April 26.

Because the suspect is under 16, Kings County prosecutors are legally barred from charging him as an adult under current law. The teen has pleaded not guilty.

Julia Sanchez says she still has unanswered questions.

Just by looking at him, I wanted to ask, "Hey, why?" Like, give me a reason. What triggered you to do that to my son?" Those are the questions passing through my mind. I just want to know why.

Now, she's hoping to turn her pain into purpose with a growing movement behind "Lorenzo's Law."

Her petition has already garnered more than 9,000 signatures.

The goal is to gather as many signatures as possible to ensure it reaches Assembly member Alexandra Macedo. Macedo represents California's 33rd Assembly District, which includes Kings County and the City of Corcoran.

Kings County Supervisor Richard Valle is also supporting the Sanchez family's efforts.

"No one needs condolences. No one needs sympathy. We need action," Valle said.

Julia says the push for change is not just about her son, it's about preventing another family from experiencing the same pain.

We don't want this to happen to anybody else. My son had so much potential. He didn't deserve this. No other kid deserves it.

I don't want his name to be forgotten. I don't want him to be just a moment of light that suddenly fades away.



Reform Prop 57: Demand Justice for Victims and Pass Lorenzo's Law

THE ISSUE

Justice for Lorenzo, Jacob, and Caleb—
Reform Prop 57 & Pass Lorenzo's Law

On April 26, 2025, 17-year-old Lorenzo was taken from us—killed in a violent crime while walking away from a group of teens aged 11–15. The 15-year-old attacker stabbed him in the neck.

His mother, shopping inside the mall, was called outside—only to find her son lifeless. Any mother's worst nightmare.

Lorenzo was a talented athlete with big dreams to play football for Fresno State. His life was full of potential. Our community is devastated, and we are standing together to bring justice for Lorenzo.

But this fight is not just for him.

Jacob Munoz and Caleb James Quick were also taken from their families in separate violent incidents—each case ending with the offender shielded by California's Proposition 57. These young men should still be here. Instead, their families are left grieving while those responsible face minimal consequences.

WHAT IS PROP 57 AND WHY IT'S FAILING

Passed in 2016, Proposition 57 makes it much harder to try juveniles as adults—even for murder, sexual

assault, armed robbery, and other violent crimes.

While meant to promote rehabilitation, it has instead created a loophole where age shields accountability.

Families are left grieving. Victims are forgotten. Communities are unsafe.

WHAT WE'RE ASKING FOR

In honor of Lorenzo, Jacob, and Caleb, we demand that California lawmakers reform Proposition 57 by passing Lorenzo's Law to:

- Allow violent juvenile offenders to be tried as adults when appropriate
- Ensure serious crimes have serious consequences—regardless of age
- Restore justice, safety, and fairness to California communities

If you are old enough to commit a violent crime, you are old enough to face the consequences.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Lorenzo's, Jacob's, and Caleb's stories are not isolated. Too many families have lost loved ones to violent crimes committed by minors who face no meaningful punishment. Prop 57 has become a barrier to justice.

We cannot keep ignoring victims.

We cannot keep giving violent offenders a free pass.

We must act now.

SIGN THIS PETITION

By signing, you will:

Demand justice for Lorenzo, Jacob, Caleb, and families like theirs

Support Lorenzo's Law

Tell lawmakers justice should never be age-restricted

Help make California safer

Let's Make Their Names a Symbol of Change

Sign. Share. Stand for justice!

https://www.change.org/p/reform-prop-57-demand-justice-for-victims-and-pass-lorenzo-s-law?recruiter=1320831473&recruited_by_id=33587800-7929-11ee-9965-a53800f34b83&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=starter_onboarding_share_personal&utm_medium=facebook_messenger

The 31st Golf Tournament

Our tournament was clearly a great success, as ticket sales were almost sold out. All who were there truly did have the time of their lives. As in the past, it was such a great family gathering. I compared it to a large family gathering for Thanksgiving dinner. Some of the foursome's have participated in our tournament all 31 years. How amazing is that? This speaks volumes about the dedication in working with and helping CAH to succeed in all its endeavors. There were 3rd generation families all playing golf.

A big thank you to our players, our sponsors, the entire team who organized this event and those

who helped from start to finish. We sincerely appreciate all those who continue to support CAH. The proceeds will continue to be used for our Newsletter, that will soon come out every other month. Also, our continued efforts to assist the various counties and organizations working on cold cases who need our assistance in funding DNA testing. We will try to share with you some of the cases we are assisting with when possible, pending approval from the departments we are working with.

One of the newest groups we are planning to work with is Jon Lieberman, CEO, LiebermanMediaSolutions.inc,

In prior years, we worked with Jon on "America's Most Wanted". It is our hope that Jon will be able to join us via Zoom at our upcoming September 13th meeting,

We have learned that some of our members who typically try to attend our meetings are finding it more difficult to travel the distance. They have also suggested Zoom meetings. I realize we have tried this in the past with not much success. We will give it another try and use more GUSTO in our efforts to make it work.

Please enjoy some of the photos from the golf tournament.





Unclaimed Restitution

English

Were you the victim of a crime and the court ordered you restitution? The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may have collected money for you. Contact the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services to inquire if you have unclaimed money from a direct order of restitution. To update your address or to obtain additional information, call CDCR toll free at 1-877-256-6877 or visit <https://unclaimedrestitution.cdcr.ca.gov/>.

Spanish

Si usted fue victima de un crimen y la corte le otorgo restitution, es posible que el Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitacion haya recibido dinero a su favor. Llame a la oficina de Victimas y Sobrevivientes para preguntar si usted tiene restitution que no se haya reclamado. Para obtener mas informacion, llame gratis al 1-877-256-6877 o visitar <https://unclaimedrestitution.cdcr.ca.gov/>.

How can you request compensation for travel costs to a parole hearing?

The Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services has funds available through a federal grant which allows for reimbursement to victims and next-of-kin for costs associated with travel to parole hearings.

For information on how to apply for travel reimbursement contact OVSRS at 1-877-256-6877.

